

NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL
REPORT OF THE PANEL CHAIR
TO ZOË METCALFE, NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER ON HER
ANNUAL REPORT FOR FIRE AND RESCUE 2022-2023

INTRODUCTION

1. This report describes the views of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel in respect of the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s Annual Report for fire and rescue 2022-23. It is submitted to the Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 5 of Schedule A2 to the Fire and Rescue Act 2004 (“the Act”).

DRAFT FIRE AND RESCUE ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

2. In accordance with the requirements of the Act, the Commissioner issued the completed draft 2022/23 Fire and Rescue Annual Report on 10 July 2023. The Panel is required to arrange a public meeting as soon as practicable after the report is sent to it.
3. The Panel is required to review the report and, if it wishes, make a report or recommendations on it to the Commissioner.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL

4. The membership of the Panel for the meeting held on 20 July was as follows:

Cllr Chris Aldred	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Lindsay Burr	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Tim Grogan	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Carl Les	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Rich Maw	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Heather Moorhouse	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Peter Wilkinson	North Yorkshire Council
Cllr Emilie Knight	City of York Council

Cllr Michael Pavlovic	City of York Council
Fraser Forsyth	Community Co-opted
Mags Godderidge	Community Co-opted

PANEL VIEWS

5. The Panel welcomes your annual report on fire and rescue and I would like to thank you for the responses provided by yourself and the Chief Fire Officer to Members' questions at the meeting.
6. Members felt that the draft report reads very well. The content and language is accessible to local communities and it contains a number of very positive examples of progress against the Fire and Rescue Plan over the last year.
7. A couple of points were raised by the Panel in relation to more specific areas of content as follows:
 - It was noted that responses to the public trust and confidence survey had been particularly low and that you are working to enhance this going forward. It was useful to note the range of ways in which you capture public opinion on the fire service and we look forward to seeing an increased level of response to the survey next year.
 - Members welcomed that the draft at page 18 noted the work done nationally to bring about a statutory basis for all fire and rescue staff members to undertake an appropriate level of DBS check. However, the report would benefit from further clarity as to the position locally on this, namely whether and when this will be taken forward. It was useful to hear that this has just been agreed nationally and that the service locally has ensured that it is well placed financially to undertake checks for firefighters. It is apparent that there is ongoing dialogue nationally around this matter in terms of what level vetting is undertaken to and when, and that the service locally will then need to consider how it continues to meet this requirement. The Panel would welcome further information on this matter once the position is finalised in due course.
8. Overall, Members feel that the report provides a helpful overview of the key issues and achievements over the past year and, on the basis of your further consideration of the above points, I am happy to confirm the North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel's support for your Fire and Rescue Annual Report 2022-23.

CLLR CARL LES

Chair,
North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Panel

25 July 2023